Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2013/04/11 : CIA-RDP90T00435R000100070001-4

NWC dump
7/25

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

25X1

UNUSUAL BUREAUCRATIC CONFUSION IN SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY TACTICS?

Although we cannot exclude deliberate pressure tactics, on the one hand, or simple mistranslation of General S.....'s comments to ??? in Kabul, the conflict between Moscow's reported intent to reintroduce some 12,000 Soviet troops into Afghanistan, according to one senior Soviet military officer, and its denial by Akhromeyev and others may result from an usually degree of disarray in the Soviet foreign policy apparatus. We have seen other examples lately.

On _____ Gorbachev offered to pull back Soviet tactical aircraft from Hungary if the US refrained from redeploying the 401st Air Wing of F16s from Spain to Italy. On _____ Shevardnadze told Amb Matlock that the MFA originally proposed a pullback of Soviet tanks, a more appealing "asymmetrical" concept, evidently overruled at some point in the process.

Gorbachev also proposed a European summit to discuss conventional arms control. He alarmed many in the West by failing to include the US and Canada, thereby seeeming to imply an intent to "decouple" West Europe from the US. Shevardnadze claimed this was an oversight, and Soviet spokesmen have since clarified the point. Gorbachev also called the summit idea a "conventional Reykjavik", similarly alarming West Europeans in a way knowledgeable Soviet diplomats should have avoided.

On _____ Soviet arms control leader Karpov offered to destroy the KY radar if the US and the Soviets reached agreement on START and non-withdrawal from the ABM Treaty. Then the Soviets clarified that the radar facility would not be torn down, only its electronics would be removed or deactivated.

Other?.....

There is always some conflict within the Soviet foreign policy apparatus. Current, Gorbachev's penchant for bold moves plus the continuing struggle over internal reforms have intensified this. But the system is usually much more disciplined in what it says and doesn't say. It may be that the political turmoil at the center as well as Gorbachev's pressure on the foreign policy apparatus to become more active and enterprising has significantly degraded typical Soviet discipline in stating the current line.

While not excluding other explanations, and variations from case to case, we have to factor into our calculations the possibility of unfamiliar sloppiness in Soviet diplomatic behavior.

SECRET

25X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2013/04/11 : CIA-RDP90T00435R000100070001-4